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432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 650, % Postmaster N.Y.C.

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Censored by:
F.W. Loops, Lt., A.C.

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Hiya Folks,

Don't know but what a year ago today I wasn't sitting down and writing you, too. - My last letter before leaving the States! - Nope. - I take it back. - I remember I talked to you on the phone! - For tomorrow makes a year to the day that I pulled wheels up + severed my last physical contact with Florida! - But just you wait + see - I'll just bet it isn't long before I can once again renew that "contact" - with my own big flat feet! - Wouldn't be at all surprised if I shouldn't kiss the ground, too!

- But whoa! - Don't go getting the wrong impression, that I've gotten my orders or something, for I haven't. - ~~Of~~ As far as I can see it will still be awhile yet, for

nothing has changed - I just got sorta carried away with myself by allowing my thoughts to travel far enough to be all the way home again! - No harm meant - just day dreaming, I guess!

Not much to add that I didn't say the other day - but one thing - I forgot to mention the Yo Yo that was in the package! - I find I'm a rank amateur in the science of it! You should see some of the fellows go to town with it! - Real professionals, no less. - I see where I have lots of practicing to do - but then, I have the time. I have to go to the parachute tent tomorrow and get some ~~th~~ string for it as we've had to make repairs twice on the original equipment! - Have plenty

of just plain string on hand - but the parachute man has some that is lots stronger and thinner, ~~a~~ so it ought to be just the thing. - ~~Bu~~ Don Allen was here when I opened the package and offered me a dollar just upon seeing the Yo-Yo! - See, - I really have something of value.

Something else of importance too. - The other day in our PX rations were coca colas! - Real honest to goodness McCoys! - There weren't enough for everyone to have 2 - so it was sort of a lottery affair to see who would get the extra ones. - Some bottles were marked and those getting the marked ones were entitled to an extra one! - Me, - my luck has changed for I got 2. - I drank one - and am saving the other for

a special occasion.- Probably when I get my orders!- Our method of cooling the bottle while primative, worked.- Just a simple matter of wrapping the bottle in a wet rag and placing it in a cool but windy place- letting it cool by evaporation!- The same as I kept my drinking water cooled last summer.- It's a good thing I took Physics some time in my life- and that I retained a precious little of the knowledge of it!-

Nope,- I didn't get in the eruption from Vesuvius.- I was in Capri about a week or so before that.- And am just as glad.- Some of the fellows who were said it was pretty miserable. Ashes a couple of inches thick on the ground, all in the air, all over your clothes, and that the only salvation was to stay indoors!- And Capri indoors

sure wouldn't be much fun.

Due to a change in censorship regulations I can now write I was in Naples + Capri - but I won't dwell on it. - Naples is a rushing place - and as all European + African Cities I've seen - crowded, narrow streets + dirty. - From lots of the shop windows you would never know they had been in a war, for I saw lots of things, and in quantities, that I know no American store has been able to get a hold of in a long time! - Can't imagine where they had it, or got it, unless they had it hid during the German occupation - and in truth - years before!

Everywhere are all sorts of hand-made trinkets and souvenirs. - All beautiful and delicately made - but as always - expensive to Americans. I was going to get lots of things in

the line of Cameos + stuff, but actually got back without a single one! - The only thing I bought was a tortoise shell mandolin + guitar - about 5 or six inches long! - Don't ask me why, or what I'm going to do with them, - as I thought they were "cute" and bought them on the spur of the moment, without rhyme or reason! - Maybe if I get to make another trip in that vicinity I will break down and get the other usual trinkets + stuff. - Will just depend on how I feel at the time, I suppose!

Well, - somehow, I seemed to have filled up quite enough space for a decent size letter, so think I will take advantage of it and sign off for now. Don't know any real news anyhow! -

So - keep 'em crossed and write. Be seeing you one of these days!

Lots of Love,
Frank